



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

***Raised Bill No. 6480***

LCO No. 3480

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED )

***AN ACT CONCERNING EQUIVALENT CREDITS FOR GRADUATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 10-221a of the general  
2       statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3       *(Effective July 1, 2003):*

4       (d) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the  
5       local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the  
6       curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter  
7       of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of  
8       education may permit a student to graduate during a period of  
9       expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the  
10      student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to  
11      this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student  
12      requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when  
13      the planning and placement team for such student determines the  
14      requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, (1) for  
15      classes graduating from 2004 to 2007, inclusive, a credit shall consist of  
16      not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for each  
17      school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward

18 high school graduation earned at an institution accredited by the  
19 Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited, and (2) for  
20 classes graduating in 2008, and for each graduating class thereafter, a  
21 credit shall consist of not less than one school year of study or the  
22 equivalent based on the demonstration of competencies consistent  
23 with content standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Such  
24 demonstration of equivalence shall be described in the plan submitted  
25 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-223a, as amended by this act,  
26 and may include performance on standardized tests, successful  
27 completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the  
28 Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited, or other  
29 activities approved by the local or regional board of education.

30 (e) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,  
31 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional  
32 board of education may grant a student credit [(1)] toward meeting a  
33 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade  
34 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds  
35 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in  
36 grades nine to twelve, inclusive. [; or (2) toward meeting the high  
37 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of  
38 coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher  
39 Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course,  
40 or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for  
41 purposes of this section.]

42 Sec. 2. Section 10-223a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
43 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

44 (NEW) (c) On or before July 1, 2004, each local and regional board of  
45 education shall adopt and submit to the Department of Education a  
46 plan for the awarding of graduation credit equivalents for classes  
47 graduating in 2008, and for each graduating class thereafter. Such plan  
48 shall describe how students shall be notified of the opportunity to  
49 obtain such credit equivalents and detail the procedure by which

50 students may obtain credit equivalents.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

***Statement of Purpose:***

To eliminate the requirement that a credit for purposes of meeting high school graduation be based on not less than a forty-minute class period for each school day of a school year and instead provide that a credit shall consist of not less than one school year of study or the equivalent based on a student's demonstration of having met content standards adopted by the State Board of Education and granted in accordance with a plan submitted to the Department of Education.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*